23rd December 1953]

[*Note*.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—PRIVILEGE MOTION GIVEN NOTICE OF BY THE HON. MEMBER SRI A. SAMBASIVAM.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I wish to inform the House that I have received the following privilege motion from the hon. Member Sri A. Sambasivam. It reads as follows :—

'Whereas certain Newspapers are in the habit of making false or perverted or partial and injurious reports of speeches made by hon. Members in the Assembly.

'Whereas similar matter was already brought to the notice of the Hon. Speaker and whereas a report appearing in the Tamil Daily "Dinamani," dated 22nd December 1953 (City edition) and purporting to be a speech made by me in the House is totally incorrect and I feel that speech made by somebody else is reported to have been made by me ; and

'Whereas the said daily has committed a grave breach of Privilege, this Assembly resolves to invoke its soverign prerogotive to refer this matter to the Committee of Privileges and take suitable steps in order to prevent similar breaches of privileges in future.'

The matter is this. The hon. Member Sri A. Sambasivam has made a speech. An hon. Member on the other side has made another speech. In the newspaper *Dinamani* the speech made by the hon. Member on the other side had been put under the name of the hon. Member Sri A. Sambasivam. It is not a wilful mis-representation. If it had been a wilful mis-representation, it certainly amounts to a breach of privilege. For instance giving a false account of the proceedings of the House is a breach of privilege. Anything amounting to a scandalous mis-representation of the proceedings of either House is a breach of privilege. Publishing gross or wilful mis-representation of the proceedings is a breach of privilege. But here I do not think this has been done wilfully. I will write to the Editor. I think he will make amends for what had been done. In view of what I have stated I hope the hon. Member Sri A. Sambasivam will not press his motion.

(Sri Swayamprakasam rose.)

" I shall make the position clear. The hon. Member Sri A. Sambasivam made a speech. An hon. Member from the Communist side also made a speech. His speech had wrongly been put under the name of Mr. A. Sambasivam in the *Dinamani*. In view of what I have stated I hope the hon. Member Sri A. Sambasivam will not press his motion." 10–10 a.m.

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Sir, I quite appreciate the anxiety of the Speaker in understanding these things very well. But at the same time the House understands the importance of the press in these matters and feels that sometimes the Speaker is very lenient . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" No, I am not lenient. Let not the hon. Member use that word."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" I remember, Sir, the speech made by the Speaker on a similar occasion last time. We are in an infant stage of democracy and the press plays an important part . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" That itself is the justification for not mistaking news items. Further some of the editors are ignorant of the rules of the House and that is another reason."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" However, the tendency now is that the press publishes certain things in their own way to accomplish cheap popularity, in the hope that any mistakes could be rectified later on. In yesterday's matter also, I said . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" That matter is over."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" My anxiety is that this leniency should not be taken for weakness. With that view I request that the matter may be thoroughly discussed."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I appeal to the House to take my advice and leave the matter to me. I will write to the editor and ask him what he has to say."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" I would submit, Sir, that in the meanwhile, this matter may be kept pending. We may see whether we get a suitable reply from the editor and then decide the issue."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have no objection."

III.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER *re*. ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIES.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to make an announcement to the House. Sri A. Ramaswamy Tevar, M.L.A., is the only candidate who has been validly nominated to fill a seat in the Board of Industries. I hereby declare him elected."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" On a point of Information, Sir, கனம் அங்கத்தினர் ஸ்ரீ ஆர். வி. சுவாமிநாதன் அவர்கள் எப்பொழுது காங்கிரஸ் கட்சியிலிருந்து எதிர் கட்சிக்கு வந்து சேர்ந்தார் என்பதைக் கேட்கிறேன். "

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—"நான் காங்கிரஸ் கட்சியில் தான் இருக்கிறேன். பேசுவதற்காகத் தான் இங்கு வந்து உட்கார்ந்தேன்."

MR. SPEAKER :—"நீங்கள் பேசுவதற்கு இங்கு வந்து உட்கார்ந்தேன் என்று சொல்வது கூடாது."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" கனம் சுவாமிநாதன் அவர்கள் தனக்கு சாதகமாக இருக்கும் போது எதிர் கட்சியில் சேருவது வழக்கம்."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The next Demand is Education. I have received a requisition and I have communicated it to the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the House may speak."